

TWINNING CONTRACT

AM/14/ENP/ST/15

Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II



MISSION REPORT

on

Demographic Statistics

Activity 2.4: Methodology of migration statistics and increased use of electronic data I

Mission carried out by

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Table of contents

1. General comments.....	4
2. Assessment and results.....	4
3. Conclusions and recommendations	4
Annex 1. Terms of Reference	8
Annex 2: Programme for the mission	10
Annex 3. Persons met.....	11

List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union
NSSRA	National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
RA	Republic of Armenia

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project “Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II”. This was the fourth activity in component 2 and the actions planned for this activity were carried out as scheduled.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Review of data collection and discussion on how to handle electronic data for migration statistics
- Meeting with data suppliers
- Review of methodology
- To involve relevant stakeholders in the discussions

The MS experts would like to express their sincere thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Armenia and which highly facilitated their work. The views and observations stated in this report are those of the MS experts and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, NSSRA, Statistics Lithuania or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

The fourth mission focused on the deepest analysis of methodology of production of international statistics and administrative data sources and on the ability to cooperate with data suppliers.

The main source of information on migration in NSSRA is the Integrated Living Conditions Survey. This is an annual sample survey which enables to collect information about demographical and social characteristics of the migrants 15 years and older, together with main information on living conditions of households and household's members. The improvement of the Migration module in questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey has been discussed (including new questions about citizenship, 0-14 years old children, analyse the migration flows only for the previous year and etc.).

The raking ratio estimation (reweighting) procedure had been done in Integrated Living Conditions Survey (after the second mission) for estimation the number of migrants by Armine Arushanyan. This procedure could improve the quality of estimates. Estimation of the Quality indicators (coefficient of variation) for migration has been discussed. The variance should be estimated taken into account the sampling design of the survey.

National Security Service of RA is responsible for the Border Management Information System. Border Management Information System obtains data on the all movements in / out of the country and data on received visas. The NSSRA receives the data on the aggregated level from Border Management Information System. The personal data about the movements of particular person and his / her duration of staying abroad / in the country should help to identify the long and short-term migrants. Border Management Information System could show the real picture of international migration of RA and improve the production of such kind of statistics.

During the meeting with the National Security Service of RA, present situation, production of international migration statistics (according EU regulation), further cooperation and importance of the using of the personal data from Border Management Information System,

signing the inter-institutional agreement have been discussed. Further cooperation with National Security Service of RA is necessary for improvement of the quality of international migration statistics in RA.

During the meeting with International Organization for Migration (IOM) the main Twinning Project finding, results and recommendations have been discussed. IOM has supported the development of methodology to produce, exchange and analyze migration data. The IOM sponsored a comprehensive nationwide household survey on migration.

Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA is responsible for the State Population Register. The delivery of the personal data from Population Register to the NSSRA is under consideration.

State Migration Service of RA obtains the data on the personal level about all applications of the asylum seekers, and the plans for generation of statistics on persons granted the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and persons who lost it.

During the meeting with the Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA and State Migration Service of RA, present situation of production of international migration statistics, the importance of receiving the personal data from State Population Resident (Population stock, population movements) for different purposes (production population and international migration statistics, construction of sampling frames, Population Census) have been discussed. The database on foreign labour migrants exists in Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA.

Further cooperation with Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA is necessary for improvement of the quality of migration statistics in RA of both institutions (NSSRA, State Migration Service of RA).

During the fourth mission the draft Agreement on data delivery to the National Statistical Service of RA and cooperation on administrative data quality was discussed. The general agreement form is very welcome. The importance of participation of IT specialist during the preparation of the agreement stage (regarding the structure of the database, ensuring the safety and protection of the data) has been discussed.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

On the basis of the main findings of assessment of migration statistics, the following conclusions can be made:

1. It is possible to improve the Migration module of questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey. The information collects on both types of migration – internal and international – simultaneously (Migration module). The supplementary questions about citizenship and 0-14 years old children in the Integrated Living Conditions Survey could be used in order to evaluate the number of international migrants by citizenship and 0-14 years old children following the guidelines of the EU Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection (EU Regulation No 862/2007).

The question regarding the duration of absence of the household member only for the previous year (instead of existing three year period) concerning migration experience will improve the accuracy of the survey results.

It will be more precise to use in questions 4 of Section B word “immigration” instead of “return from migration”, as respondents are not only citizens of Republic of Armenia, but and foreigners too.

To analyse the possibility to remove the question “Did send remittances in cash or/and in kind during the last 12 months?” from the questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey, in case, if it will be possible to receive this data from the Central Bank of the Armenia. The collaboration between NSSRA and the Central Bank of Armenia concerning measuring of remittances could be foreseen. After the joint work on the evaluation data on remittances, the possibility to carry out the regular survey will be discussed, since the complex analysis of the migration processes as well as for improvements in balance of payments statistics require good quality data on remittances.

The raking ratio estimation (reweighting) procedure had been done based on the database of Integrated Living Conditions Survey and Demographic updated data. Estimation of the Quality indicators (coefficient of variation) for migration has been discussed. The variance should be estimated taken into account the sampling design of the survey. A detailed survey report and estimation of errors concerning international migration module could be published on NSSRA website and will be relevant for needs of users’.

2. Good relations with RA National Security Service. For the improvement of the quality of international migration statistics personal data from Border Management Information System could be used. These data have a legal value and are based on the personal documents. It will be used all administrative records on border crossing movements of the RA for identifying the number of immigrants and emigrants by sex, age, citizenship and other indicators following the guidelines of the EU Regulation No 862/2007, but not by national legislation. The methodology for measuring the immigration and emigration flows should be developed. It will be possibility to make analysis and check data with Integrated Living Conditions Survey’s and Population Register data.
3. Good relations with Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA. The delivery of the personal data from Population Register to the NSSRA is under consideration. Using the personal data from Population Register could help to produce data on annual population stock by group of country of citizenship and group of country of birth as requested by the EU Regulation No 862/2007. Data on population stock by citizenship and country of birth are produced each ten years and based on population census results.
4. The database on foreign labour migrants exists in Visa and Passport department of the Police of RA. The NSSRA could use this database (personal or aggregated data) for the production of the statistical information on the economic characteristics of the international migrants.
5. Close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
6. Good relations with State Migration Service. State Migration Service in cooperation with the NSSRA and Police of RA plans to produce statistics on acquisition and lose of the citizenship following the guidelines of the EU Regulation No 862/2007. Further cooperation with National Security Service of RA is necessary for improvement of the quality of migration statistics in RA of both institutions (NSSRA, State Migration Service of RA).

NSSRA should introduce appropriate instruments aimed at achieving better quality of international migration statistics. A number of them are reflected below:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
To update the Migration module in questionnaire of the Integrated Liv-	End of the 2016	Karine Kuyumjyan

ing Conditions Survey		
To improve document “ <i>Structure of the technical specification for International Migration</i> ” and to prepare the technical specification – (define the structure of the database, schemes, validation and imputation procedure and etc) for producing the international migration statistics.	Midyear 2017	Karine Kuyumjyan
To estimate quality indicators for main migration indicators (The variance should be estimated taken into account the sampling design of the survey)	Midyear 2017	Karine Kuyumjyan and Narine Grigoryan Armine Arushanyan (programmer)

1. To have a (internal or external) training (practical) courses on Imputation methods.
2. To strengthen IT skills and capacities with working with registers and administrative databases.
3. To ensure cooperation of specialists from Population Census and Demography Division with IT specialists.
4. The suggestions concerning the Agreement on data delivery to the NSSRA and cooperation on administrative data quality have been provided by an extra paragraph:

2.2.0. Usage of data:

“*NSSRA obliges not to disclose or not to grant other opportunities to third parties in any form of access to the personal data they receive, if the laws of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts provide otherwise.*”

1.3 Legal basis for delivery

To add reference to the *Three-year State Statistical Work Program*.

IT specialists should participate in preparation of Agreement on data delivery to the NSSRA and cooperation on administrative data quality regarding the structure of the database, ensuring the safety and protection of the data.

Study visit to Statistics Lithuania is planned in October 2016.

Some recommendations related to the Study visit for Population, census and demographic division of NSSRA have been provided:

1. Draft technical specification for production of the international migration statistics should be presented for Lithuanian experts before the Study visit and discussed during the visit time in Lithuania.
2. Organize the high level meeting with National Security Service of RA and provide the results.
3. Provide the draft updated module of migration from the questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey before the Study visit and discuss during the visit time in Lithuania.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project AM/14/ENP/ST/15

2-6 May 2016

Component 2: Demographic Statistics

Activity 2.4: Methodology of migration statistics and increased use of electronic data I

0. Mandatory results and benchmarks for the component

Mandatory results:

- Migration statistics improved concerning data collection, coverage, timeliness and quality (July 2017)

Benchmarks:

- Methodology on migration statistics updated (April 2017)
- Staff of NSSRA trained on issues related to migration statistics (July 2017)

1. Purpose of the activity

- Review of data collection and discussion on how to handle electronic data for migration statistics
- Meeting with data suppliers
- Review of methodology
- To involve relevant stakeholders in the discussions

2. Expected output of the activity

- Data quality assessed
- Meeting with data suppliers held
- Methods to check/integrate available data and possible new data sources identified
- Survey methodology and legal acts reviewed
- A lining up of work programme for the next activities:
 - 2.6: Study visit to Statistics Lithuania (November 2016)
 - 2.7: Methodology of migration statistics and increased use of electronic data II (February 2017)

3. Participants

NSSRA

Component leaders

- Mr. Gagik Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics of RA
- Ms. Karine Kuyumjyan, Head, Population Census and Demography Division

Other staff

- Ms. Anna Tokhatyan, Chief specialist, Population Census and Demography Division
- Ms. Narine Grigoryan, Leading specialist, Population Census and Demography Division
- Ms. Anna Grigoryan, 1st category specialist, Population Census and Demography Division
- Ms. Susanna Azatyan, 2nd category specialist, Population Census and Demography Division

MS experts

Ms. Inga Masiulaitytė-Šukevič, Expert, Statistics Lithuania

Ms. Danguolė Svidlerienė, Expert, Statistics Lithuania

Other stakeholders taking part in the activity

Representatives from:

- State Migration Service, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development
- RA National Security Service
- Passport and Visa Department, RA Police
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- State Economic University of Armenia

will also be invited.

Annex 2: Programme for the mission

Time	Place	Event	Purpose / detail
Monday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	To discuss the programme of the week Assessment of situation and presentation by BC of the work conducted since last mission, and presentation by BC of the expected outcome of current mission
Monday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Review of data collection and discussion on how to handle electronic data for migration statistics
Tuesday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Assessment of data quality Review of survey methodology and legal acts reviewed
Tuesday, afternoon 14:30 16:00	NSSRA	Meeting with stakeholders	Meeting with: - RA National Security Service - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Wednesday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Identification of methods to check/integrate available data and possible new data sources
			Meeting with NSSRA IT division
Wednesday, afternoon 14:30	NSSRA In library	Meeting with stakeholders	Meeting with: - Passport and Visa Department, RA Police - State Migration Service
Thursday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Further discussions on methodology Defining homework to be done until next mission
Thursday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader Ad-hoc meetings	Presentation of MS Experts' findings and agreement on the reached conclusions Final clarifications with BC Experts, preparation of report and presentation for BC Project Leader
Friday, morning	NSSRA	Debriefing with BC Project Leader	Conclusions and decisions and their consequences for the next activity and the implied work programme for BC Experts

Annex 3. Persons met

NSSRA:

Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of the NSS RA
Anahit Safyan, Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA
Gagik Gevorgyan, Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA
Karine Kuyumjyan, Head of Population Census and Demography Division
Anna Tokhatyan, Population Census and Demography Division
Anush Khamoryan, International Statistical Cooperation Division
Varsik Senekerimyan, International Statistical Cooperation Division
External stakeholders

External stakeholders:

Karo Harutyunyan, National Security Service of the RA
Narine Barseghyan, Passport and Visa Office of Police of the RA
Vahan Bakshetsyan, State Migration Service, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the RA
Ilona Ter-Minasyan, Head of IOM Office in Armenia
Karine Khojayan, International Organization for Migration

RTA Team:

Mr. Peter Bohnstedt Anan Hansen, Resident Twinning Adviser
Ms. Sona Mirzoyan, RTA Assistant
Ms. Anush Poghosyan, RTA Language Assistant